

Submitter: Russ Mead  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources and  
Wildfire  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3932

Testimony of Russ Mead, Animal Law Professor, Seaside, Oregon  
In Support of Oregon House Bill 3932, Chair and Members of the Committee,

I support HB 3932. This law is important for protecting our state animal, the beaver. We need to act now. HB 3932 will stop beavers from being trapped on public land in specific waterways. This will help these important animals do their job in keeping our environment healthy.

Beavers are a symbol of our history and are essential for our future. Beavers help clean our water by building dams. These dams slow down water, catch dirt, and filter out harmful things from our streams and rivers. Right now, over 100,000 miles of waterways in Oregon are polluted. Beavers can naturally help fix these problems. Their ponds and wetlands are crucial homes for juvenile salmon.

Beavers also help control floods. Their dams stabilize water levels and lessen the damage from strong water flows. This increases the number of species living in the area and helps us deal with climate change.

More than just being good for the environment, beavers are part of Oregon's history. They have been around for over 30 million years and have shaped our land. Their dams are well-known symbols of Oregon's wilderness. As animals, they deserve our respect and protection. Saving them is not just good for us; it is also fair to a species that has contributed much to Oregon's identity.

HB 3932 is a fair, science-based law that honors our history and protects our future. It recognizes how special beavers are as intelligent beings. Passing this law will give hope for the future of Oregon's beavers. Please support this bill and help keep Oregon known as the Beaver State.

Let us preserve Oregon's natural heritage and safeguard our beloved beavers.